TRENDS

ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICAN
RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, December 21, 1989 -- Carloadings* originated on major U.S. railroads during the week ended December 16 totaled 330,833, down 3.5 percent from the comparable week of 1988 and 5.1 percent below the preceding week of 1989, the Association of American Railroads (AAR) reported today. The railroads reporting account for approximately 94 percent of all rail carloads.

Carloadings originated were down 4.4 percent in the East and 2.4 percent in the West, compared with a year ago.

From the comparable 1988 week, grain loadings were up 1,864 cars (6.4 percent). Loadings of motor vehicles and equipment were down 4,419 cars (19.0 percent), while coal loadings fell by 2,503 cars (2.0 percent). Loadings of crushed stone, gravel and sand dropped 1,918 cars (15.2 percent).

Cumulative carloadings for the first 50 weeks of 1989 totaled 16,740,948, down 1.3 percent from the comparable period a year ago.

Intermodal traffic on Class I railroads -- which is not included in the carloadings -- totaled 125,459 trailers and/or containers for the week ended December 16, up 8.8 percent from the comparable week of 1988.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 50 weeks of 1989 was 5,757,277 trailers and/or containers, 3.2 percent above the comparable 1988 total.

The AAR also estimated that ton-miles carried on major railroads in the week ended December 16 totaled 19.1 billion, 3.5 percent below the comparable week of 1988. Cumulative volume for the first 50 weeks of 1989 was an estimated 963.9 billion ton-miles, down 0.3 percent from the comparable period of last year.

**Because of changes in reporting, 1989 figures are not comparable to previous years, except for 1988, which has been restated for purposes of comparison with 1989.*

(more)

WEEKLY TRAFFIC OF MAJOR RAILROADS
FOR THE WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 16, 1989

CARLOADS ORIGINATED, BY COMMODITY GROUP

COMMODITY	WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 16, 1989	COMPARISON WITH SAME WEEK OF 1988	CHANGE	COMPARISON WITH PRECEDING WEEK	CHANGE
Grain	31,095	29,231	6.4 %	33,714	-7.8 %
Farm Products, Ex. Grain	2,348	3,229	-27.3	2,654	-11.5
Metallic Ores	20,198	19,367	4.3	18,522	9.0
Coal	125,099	127,602	-2.0	135,684	-7.8
Crushed Stone, Sand & Gravel	10,725	12,643	-15.2	13,844	-22.5
Nonmetallic Minerals	9,253	9,179	.8	8,758	5.7
Grain Mill Products	10,259	10,282	-.2	10,220	.4
Food & Kindred Products	9,268	9,086	2.0	9,260	.1
Primary Forest Products	9,047	9,829	-8.0	9,310	-2.8
Lumber & Wood Products	6,103	6,704	-9.0	6,018	1.4
Pulp, Paper & Allied Products	10,068	9,987	.8	9,737	3.4
Chemicals	26,282	26,870	-2.2	27,765	-5.3
Petroleum Products	5,176	5,234	-1.1	5,233	-1.1
Stone, Clay & Glass Products	8,508	9,095	-6.5	9,711	-12.4
Coke	5,577	5,996	-7.0	5,492	1.5
Metals & Products	8,488	9,197	-7.7	8,552	-.7
Motor Vehicles & Equipment	18,829	23,248	-19.0	19,756	-4.7
Waste & Scrap Materials	8,287	8,859	-6.5	8,462	-2.1
All Other Carloads	6,223	7,112	-12.5	6,086	2.3
Total	330,833	342,750	-3.5 %	348,778	-5.1 %

SUMMARY: CARLOADS ORIGINATED, INTERMODAL TRAFFIC AND ESTIMATED TON-MILES

TRAFFIC	WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 16, 1989 1989	1988	CHANGE	CUMULATIVE: 50 WEEKS ENDING DECEMBER 16, 1989 1989	1988	CHANGE
Carloads Originated	330,833	342,750	-3.5 %	16,740,948	16,965,366	-1.3 %
Intermodal Traffic Originated						
Trailers	71,953	70,028	2.7	3,342,595	3,365,986	-.7
Containers	53,506	45,270	18.2	2,414,682	2,213,177	9.1
Total	125,459	115,298	8.8	5,757,277	5,579,163	3.2
Estimated Ton-Miles						
Class I Railroads (Billions)	19.1	19.8	-3.5 %	963.9	966.8	-.3 %

NOTES: Union Pacific figures include the Missouri-Kansas-Texas. UP's 1988 traffic is the sum of UP's and MKT's traffic. Traffic interchanged between the two roads during 1988 has not been excluded from "received" traffic.

Carloadings are estimated for: Week 50, 1989 - LSI, PLE & WC.

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